

[CHAPTER 887]

AN ACT

October 15, 1940
[H. R. 9654]
[Public, No. 860]

To extend, for an additional year, the provisions of the Sugar Act of 1937 and the taxes with respect to sugar.

Sugar Act of 1937,
amendment.
50 Stat. 916.
7 U. S. C., Supp. V,
§ 1183 (note).

Termination of
powers of Secretary;
exception.

50 Stat. 909-912.
7 U. S. C., Supp. V,
§§ 1131-1137.
53 Stat. 429.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 513 of the Sugar Act of 1937 (relating to termination of powers of the Secretary of Agriculture under the Sugar Act) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 513. The powers vested in the Secretary under this Act shall terminate on December 31, 1941, except that the Secretary shall have power to make payments under title III under programs applicable to the crop year 1941 and previous crop years."

SEC. 2. Section 3508 of the Internal Revenue Code (relating to termination of taxes under the Sugar Act) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3508. TERMINATION OF TAXES.

"No tax shall be imposed under this chapter on the manufacture, use, or importation of sugar after June 30, 1942."

No tax to be im-
posed after June 30,
1942.

50 Stat. 915.
48 U. S. C., Supp. V,
§ 1007a.
Philippine Islands,
payments.

SEC. 3. Section 503 of the Sugar Act of 1937 (relating to payments to the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands) is amended by striking out "June 30, 1941" and inserting in lieu thereof "June 30, 1942".

50 Stat. 908.
7 U. S. C., Supp. V,
§ 1117 (b).
Direct-consumption
quota for Puerto Rico.

SEC. 4. Subsection (b) of section 207 of the Sugar Act of 1937 (relating to direct-consumption sugar from Puerto Rico) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: "This subsection is hereby extended so that not more than one hundred and twenty-six thousand and thirty-three short tons, raw value, of the quota for Puerto Rico for any calendar year may be filled by direct-consumption sugar: *Provided, however,* That the amount of said quota which may be filled by direct-consumption sugar for the calendar year 1940 shall not be less than the quantity of direct-consumption sugar from Puerto Rico actually brought into the continental United States, for consumption therein, after December 31, 1939, and up to and including the date of the enactment of this amendatory sentence."

Proviso.
Amount for calen-
dar year 1940.

50 Stat. 907.
7 U. S. C., Supp. V,
§ 1117 (a).
Direct-consumption
quota for Hawaii.

SEC. 5. Subsection (a) of section 207 of the Sugar Act of 1937 (relating to direct-consumption sugar from Hawaii) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: "This subsection is hereby extended so that not more than twenty-nine thousand six hundred and sixteen short tons, raw value, of the quota for Hawaii for any calendar year may be filled by direct-consumption sugar: *Provided, however,* That the amount of said quota which may be filled by direct-consumption sugar for the calendar year 1940 shall not be less than the quantity of direct-consumption sugar from Hawaii actually brought into the continental United States, for consumption therein, after December 31, 1939, and up to and including the date of the enactment of this amendatory sentence."

Proviso.
Amount for calen-
dar year 1940.

Approved, October 15, 1940.

[CHAPTER 888]

AN ACT

October 17, 1940
[S. 4270]
[Public, No. 861]

To promote and strengthen the national defense by suspending enforcement of certain civil liabilities of certain persons serving in the Military and Naval Establishments, including the Coast Guard.

Soldiers' and Sail-
ors' Civil Relief Act
of 1940.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.

ARTICLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 100. In order to provide for, strengthen, and expedite the national defense under the emergent conditions which are threatening the peace and security of the United States and to enable the United States the more successfully to fulfill the requirements of the national defense, provision is hereby made to suspend enforcement of civil liabilities, in certain cases, of persons in the military service of the United States in order to enable such persons to devote their entire energy to the defense needs of the Nation, and to this end the following provisions are made for the temporary suspension of legal proceedings and transactions which may prejudice the civil rights of persons in such service during the period herein specified over which this Act remains in force.

General provisions.

SEC. 101. (1) The term "persons in military service" and the term "persons in the military service of the United States", as used in this Act, shall include the following persons and no others: All members of the Army of the United States, the United States Navy, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, and all officers of the Public Health Service detailed by proper authority for duty either with the Army or the Navy. The term "military service", as used in this Act, shall signify Federal service on active duty with any branch of service heretofore referred to or mentioned as well as training or education under the supervision of the United States preliminary to induction into the military service. The terms "active service" or "active duty" shall include the period during which a person in military service is absent from duty on account of sickness, wounds, leave, or other lawful cause.

Definition of terms.
"Persons in military service."
"Persons in the military service of the United States."

"Military service."

"Active service" or
"active duty."

(2) The term "period of military service", as used in this Act, shall include the time between the following dates: For persons in active service at the date of the approval of this Act it shall begin with the date of approval of this Act; for persons entering active service after the date of this Act, with the date of entering active service. It shall terminate with the date of discharge from active service or death while in active service, but in no case later than the date when this Act ceases to be in force.

"Period of military service."

(3) The term "person", when used in this Act with reference to the holder of any right alleged to exist against a person in military service or against a person secondarily liable under such right, shall include individuals, partnerships, corporations, and any other forms of business association.

"Person."

(4) The term "court", as used in this Act, shall include any court of competent jurisdiction of the United States or of any State, whether or not a court of record.

"Court."

SEC. 102. (1) The provisions of this Act shall apply to the United States, the several States and Territories, the District of Columbia, and all territory subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, including the Philippine Islands while under the sovereignty of the United States, and to proceedings commenced in any court therein, and shall be enforced through the usual forms of procedure obtaining in such courts or under such regulations as may be by them prescribed.

Applicability of Act.

(2) When under this Act any application is required to be made to a court in which no proceeding has already been commenced with respect to the matter, such application may be made to any court.

Enforcement.

Court jurisdiction.

SEC. 103. (1) Whenever pursuant to any of the provisions of this Act the enforcement of any obligation or liability, the prosecution of any suit or proceeding, the entry or enforcement of any order, writ, judgment, or decree, or the performance of any other act, may be stayed, postponed, or suspended, such stay, postponement, or suspension may, in the discretion of the court, likewise be granted to sureties,

Stay, etc., to persons secondarily liable.

guarantors, endorsers, and others subject to the obligation or liability, the performance or enforcement of which is stayed, postponed, or suspended.

Vacating of judgment, etc., as to sureties, etc.

(2) When a judgment or decree is vacated or set aside in whole or in part, as provided in this Act, the same may, in the discretion of the court, likewise be set aside and vacated as to any surety, guarantor, endorser, or other person liable upon the contract or liability for the enforcement of which the judgment or decree was entered.

ARTICLE II—GENERAL RELIEF

Protection against judgment in default, etc.

Affidavit as to status of defendant required.

SEC. 200. (1) In any action or proceeding commenced in any court, if there shall be a default of any appearance by the defendant, the plaintiff, before entering judgment shall file in the court an affidavit setting forth facts showing that the defendant is not in military service. If unable to file such affidavit plaintiff shall in lieu thereof file an affidavit setting forth either that the defendant is in the military service or that plaintiff is not able to determine whether or not defendant is in such service. If an affidavit is not filed showing that the defendant is not in the military service, no judgment shall be entered without first securing an order of court directing such entry, and no such order shall be made if the defendant is in such service until after the court shall have appointed an attorney to represent defendant and protect his interest, and the court shall on application make such appointment. Unless it appears that the defendant is not in such service the court may require, as a condition before judgment is entered, that the plaintiff file a bond approved by the court conditioned to indemnify the defendant, if in military service, against any loss or damage that he may suffer by reason of any judgment should the judgment be thereafter set aside in whole or in part. And the court may make such other and further order or enter such judgment as in its opinion may be necessary to protect the rights of the defendant under this Act.

Bond to indemnify defendant in military service.

Other relief.

Penalty for false affidavit.

(2) Any person who shall make or use an affidavit required under this section, knowing it to be false, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punishable by imprisonment not to exceed one year or by fine not to exceed \$1,000, or both.

Attorney to represent person in service if not present, etc.

(3) In any action or proceeding in which a person in military service is a party if such party does not personally appear therein or is not represented by an authorized attorney, the court may appoint an attorney to represent him; and in such case a like bond may be required and an order made to protect the rights of such person. But no attorney appointed under this Act to protect a person in military service shall have power to waive any right of the person for whom he is appointed or bind him by his acts.

Judgment against person in service. Reopening after termination, if prejudiced thereby.

(4) If any judgment shall be rendered in any action or proceeding governed by this section against any person in military service during the period of such service or within thirty days thereafter, and it appears that such person was prejudiced by reason of his military service in making his defense thereto, such judgment may, upon application, made by such person or his legal representative, not later than ninety days after the termination of such service, be opened by the court rendering the same and such defendant or his legal representative let in to defend; provided it is made to appear that the defendant has a meritorious or legal defense to the action or some part thereof. Vacating, setting aside, or reversing any judgment because of any of the provisions of this Act shall not impair any right or title acquired by any bona fide purchaser for value under such judgment.

Condition.

Right or title of bona fide purchaser.

SEC. 201. At any stage thereof any action or proceeding in any court in which a person in military service is involved, either as plaintiff or defendant, during the period of such service or within sixty days thereafter may, in the discretion of the court in which it is pending, on its own motion, and shall, on application to it by such person or some person on his behalf, be stayed as provided in this Act, unless, in the opinion of the court, the ability of plaintiff to prosecute the action or the defendant to conduct his defense is not materially affected by reason of his military service.

Stay of proceeding;
exception.

SEC. 202. When an action for compliance with the terms of any contract is stayed pursuant to this Act no fine or penalty shall accrue by reason of failure to comply with the terms of such contract during the period of such stay, and in any case where a person fails to perform any obligation and a fine or penalty for such nonperformance is incurred a court may, on such terms as may be just, relieve against the enforcement of such fine or penalty if it shall appear that the person who would suffer by such fine or penalty was in the military service when the penalty was incurred and that by reason of such service the ability of such person to pay or perform was thereby materially impaired.

Relief against fines
or penalties on con-
tracts, etc., while in
service.

SEC. 203. In any action or proceeding commenced in any court against a person in military service, before or during the period of such service, or within sixty days thereafter, the court may, in its discretion, on its own motion, or on application to it by such person or some person on his behalf shall, unless in the opinion of the court the ability of the defendant to comply with the judgment or order entered or sought is not materially affected by reason of his military service—

Actions against per-
sons in service.
Authority of court.

(a) Stay the execution of any judgment or order entered against such person, as provided in this Act; and

Stay execution of
judgment.

(b) Vacate or stay any attachment or garnishment of property, money, or debts in the hands of another, whether before or after judgment as provided in this Act.

Vacate attachment,
etc.

SEC. 204. Any stay of any action, proceeding, attachment, or execution, ordered by any court under the provisions of this Act may, except as otherwise provided, be ordered for the period of military service and three months thereafter or any part of such period, and subject to such terms as may be just, whether as to payment in installments of such amounts and at such times as the court may fix or otherwise. Where the person in military service is a codefendant with others the plaintiff may nevertheless by leave of court proceed against the others.

Continuance of
stay, etc.

Codefendants.

SEC. 205. The period of military service shall not be included in computing any period now or hereafter to be limited by any law for the bringing of any action by or against any person in military service or by or against his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, whether such cause of action shall have accrued prior to or during the period of such service.

Statute of limita-
tions.
Military service not
included in period.

ARTICLE III—RENT, INSTALLMENT CONTRACTS, MORTGAGES

SEC. 300. (1) No eviction or distress shall be made during the period of military service in respect of any premises for which the agreed rent does not exceed \$80 per month, occupied chiefly for dwelling purposes by the wife, children, or other dependents of a person in military service, except upon leave of court granted upon application therefor or granted in an action or proceeding affecting the right of possession.

Evictions re-
strained.

(2) On any such application or in any such action the court may, in its discretion, on its own motion, and shall, on application, unless in

Stay of proceedings,
etc.

the opinion of the court the ability of the tenant to pay the agreed rent is not materially affected by reason of such military service, stay the proceedings for not longer than three months, as provided in this Act, or it may make such other order as may be just.

Punishment for unlawful eviction.

(3) Any person who shall knowingly take part in any eviction or distress otherwise than as provided in subsection (1) hereof shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punishable by imprisonment not to exceed one year or by fine not to exceed \$1,000, or both.

Allotments of pay for rent.

(4) The Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, or the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the Coast Guard, as the case may be, is hereby empowered, subject to such regulations as he may prescribe, to order an allotment of the pay of a person in military service in reasonable proportion to discharge the rent of premises occupied for dwelling purposes by the wife, children, or other dependents of such person.

Installment purchases.
Restriction on rescinding certain contracts.

SEC. 301. (1) No person who prior to the date of approval of this Act has received, or whose assignor has received, under a contract for the purchase of real or personal property, or of lease or bailment with a view to purchase of such property, a deposit or installment of the purchase price from a person or from the assignor of a person who, after the date of payment of such deposit or installment, has entered military service, shall exercise any right or option under such contract to rescind or terminate the contract or resume possession of the property for nonpayment of any installment falling due during the period of such military service, except by action in a court of competent jurisdiction: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this section shall prevent the modification, termination, or cancelation of any such contract, or prevent the repossession or retention of property purchased or received under such contract, pursuant to a mutual agreement of the parties thereto, or their assignees, if such agreement is executed in writing subsequent to the making of such contract and during or after the period of military service of the person concerned.

Proviso.
Modification, etc., of contracts by mutual consent.

Retaking property except under court action; penalty.

(2) Any person who shall knowingly resume possession of property which is the subject of this section otherwise than as provided in subsection (1) hereof shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by imprisonment not to exceed one year or by fine not to exceed \$1,000, or both.

Judicial proceedings for terminating contract, etc.

(3) Upon the hearing of such action the court may order the repayment of prior installments or deposits or any part thereof, as a condition of terminating the contract and resuming possession of the property, or may, in its discretion, on its own motion, and shall, except as provided in section 303, on application to it by such person in military service or some person on his behalf, order a stay of proceedings as provided in this Act unless, in the opinion of the court, the ability of the defendant to comply with the terms of the contract is not materially affected by reason of such service; or it may make such other disposition of the case as may be equitable to conserve the interests of all parties.

Prior obligations secured by mortgage, etc.

SEC. 302. (1) The provisions of this section shall apply only to obligations originating prior to the date of approval of this Act and secured by mortgage, trust deed, or other security in the nature of a mortgage upon real or personal property owned by a person in military service at the commencement of the period of the military service and still so owned by him.

Action of court in cases of nonpayment, etc.

(2) In any proceeding commenced in any court during the period of military service to enforce such obligation arising out of nonpayment of any sum thereunder due or out of any other breach of the terms thereof occurring prior to or during the period of such service the court may, after hearing, in its discretion, on its own motion, and shall, except as provided in section 303, on application to it by such person in military service or some person on his behalf, unless in the

opinion of the court the ability of the defendant to comply with the terms of the obligation is not materially affected by reason of his military service—

- (a) stay the proceedings as provided in this Act; or
- (b) make such other disposition of the case as may be equitable to conserve the interests of all parties.

(3) No sale under a power of sale or under a judgment entered upon warrant of attorney to confess judgment contained in any such obligation shall be valid if made during the period of military service or within three months thereafter, unless upon an order of sale previously granted by the court and a return thereto made and approved by the court.

SEC. 303. No court shall stay a proceeding to resume possession of a motor vehicle, tractor, or the accessories of either, or for an order of sale thereof, where said motor vehicle, tractor, or accessories are encumbered by a purchase money mortgage, conditional sales contract, or a lease or bailment with a view to purchase, unless the court shall find that 50 per centum or more of the purchase price of said property has been paid, but in any such proceeding the court may, before entering an order or judgment, require the plaintiff to file a bond, approved by the court, conditioned to indemnify the defendant, if in military service, against any loss or damage that he may suffer by reason of any such judgment or order should the judgment or order be set aside in whole or in part.

ARTICLE IV—INSURANCE

SEC. 400. In this article the term "policy" shall include any contract of life insurance on the level premium or legal reserve plan. It shall also include any benefit in the nature of life insurance arising out of membership in any fraternal or beneficial association; the term "premium" shall include membership dues or assessments in such association, and the date of issuance of policy as herein limited shall refer to the date of admission to membership in such association; the term "insured" shall include any person who is the holder of a policy as defined in this article; the term "insurer" shall include any corporation, partnership, or other form of association which secures or provides insurance under any policy as defined in this article.

SEC. 401. (1) The benefits of this article shall apply to any person in military service who is the holder of a policy of life insurance, when such holder shall apply for such benefits on a form prepared in accordance with regulations which shall be prescribed by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs. Such form shall set forth particularly that the application therein made is a consent to such modification of the terms of the original contract of insurance as are made necessary by the provisions of this article and by receiving and filing the same the insurer shall be deemed to have assented thereto, to the extent, if any, to which the policy on which the application is made is within the provisions of this article. The original of such application shall be sent by the insured to the insurer, and a copy thereof to the Veterans' Administration.

(2) The Veterans' Administration shall issue through suitable military and naval channels a notice for distribution by appropriate military and naval authorities to persons in the military service explaining the provisions of this article and shall furnish forms to be distributed to those desiring to make application for its benefits.

SEC. 402. The benefits of this Act shall be available to any person in military service in respect of contracts of insurance in force under their terms up to but not exceeding a face value of \$5,000, irrespective of the number of policies held by such person whether in one or more

Sale under warrant to confess judgment, etc., restricted.

Resumption of possession of motor vehicle, etc.

Stay of proceedings, restriction.

Exception.

Indemnity bond.

"Policy" defined.

"Premium."

"Insured."

"Insurer."

Persons in service entitled to benefits hereof.

Application forms.

Issue of forms, etc.

Maximum amount of benefits allowed.

companies, when such contracts were made and a premium was paid thereon before the date of approval of this Act or not less than thirty days before entry into the military service; but in no event shall the provisions of this article apply to any policy on which premiums are due and unpaid for a period of more than one year at the time when application for the benefits of this article is made or in respect of any policy on which there is outstanding a policy loan or other indebtedness equal to or greater than 50 per centum of the cash surrender value of the policy.

SEC. 403. The Veterans' Administration shall, subject to regulations, which shall be prescribed by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, compile and maintain a list of such persons in military service as have made application for the benefits of this article, and shall (1) reject any application for such benefits made by persons who are not persons in military service; (2) reject any applications for such benefits in excess of the amount permitted by section 402; and (3) reject any applications in respect of contracts of insurance otherwise not entitled to the benefits of this article. Said Administration shall immediately notify the insurer and the insured in writing of every rejection or approval.

SEC. 404. When one or more applications are made under this article by any one person in military service in respect of insurance exceeding a total face value of \$5,000, whether on one or more policies or in one or more companies, and the insured shall not in his application indicate an order of preference, the Veterans' Administration shall reject such policies as have the inferior cash surrender value, so as to reduce the total benefits conferred within the face value of \$5,000, and where necessary for this purpose shall direct the insurer to divide any policy into two separate policies. The said Administration shall immediately notify the insurer and the insured in writing of such selection.

SEC. 405. No policy which has not lapsed for the nonpayment of premium before the commencement of the period of military service of the insured, and which has been brought within the benefits of this article, shall lapse or be forfeited for the nonpayment of premium during the period of such service or during one year after the expiration of such period: *Provided*, That in no case shall this prohibition extend for more than one year after the date when this Act ceases to be in force.

SEC. 406. Within the first fifteen days of each calendar month after the date of approval of this Act until the expiration of one year after the date when this Act ceases to be in force every insurance corporation or association to which application has been made as herein provided, for the benefits of this article, shall render to the Veterans' Administration a report, duly verified, setting forth the following facts:

First. The names of the persons who have applied for such benefits, and the face value of the policies in respect of which such benefits have been applied for by such persons, during the preceding calendar month.

Second. A list as far as practicable of the premiums in respect of policies entitled to the benefits of this article, which remain unpaid on the last day of the preceding calendar month, which day is at least thirty-one days after the due date of the premiums, provided such premiums have not previously been so reported as in default.

Third. A list of premiums which, having been previously reported as in default, have been paid by the policyholder or someone on his behalf in whole or in part during the preceding calendar month.

Fourth. A computation of the difference between the total amount of defaulted premiums therein reported and the total amount of

Restriction as to unpaid premiums.

Outstanding loans.

Applicants for benefits to be listed.

Notice of rejection or approval.

Reduction of policies exceeding \$5,000, etc.

No lapses for nonpayment during service period.

Proviso.
Limitation.

Insurance corporations, etc.
Monthly reports.

Names of applicants; face value of policies.

Unpaid premiums.

Defaulted premiums paid.

Computation of monthly difference.

premiums paid as therein reported, after having been previously reported as in default. From this sum shall be deducted the total sum of any premiums previously reported as in default, upon policies in respect of which the Veterans' Administration has, since the date of such report, rejected an application for the benefits of this article. The final sum so arrived at shall be denominated the monthly difference.

SEC. 407. The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs shall verify the computation of monthly difference reported by each insurer and shall, within ten days thereafter, deliver each month to the proper officer of such insurer, a certificate in the amount of the monthly difference certified in respect of each insurer. Such certificate shall be signed by said Administrator in the name of the United States, shall be in such form as the Administrator shall determine, shall be payable to the insurer within sixty days after the approval of the statement of account, as provided in section 411 hereof, and shall bear interest at a rate to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, payable with the principal. Such certificate shall not be transferred except with the approval of said Administrator and shall remain with the insurer until settlement is made in accordance with this article.

Verification of computation.

Certificate of monthly difference in respect of each insurer.

Transfer restricted.

Use as security for unpaid premiums.

Lien on policy.

SEC. 408. The certificate so delivered shall be held by the respective insurers as security for the payment of the defaulted premiums with interest. To indemnify it against loss the United States shall have a first lien upon any policy receiving the benefits of this article, subject only to any lien existing at the time the policy became subject to this Act, and no loan or settlement or payment of dividend shall be made by the insurer on such policy which may prejudice the security of such lien. Before any dividend is paid or any loan or settlement is made the written consent of the Veterans' Administration must be obtained.

Deduction from proceeds of policy in case of death during service.

SEC. 409. In the event that the military service of any person being the holder of a policy receiving the benefits of this article shall be terminated by death, the amount of any unpaid premiums, with interest at the rate provided for in the policy for policy loans, shall be deducted from the proceeds of the policy and shall be included in the next monthly report of the insurer as premiums paid.

Lapse of policy.

SEC. 410. If the insured does not within one year after the termination of his period of military service pay to the insurer all past due premiums with interest thereon from their several due dates at the rate provided in the policy for policy loans, the policy shall at the end of such year immediately lapse and become void, and the insurer shall thereupon become liable to pay the cash surrender value thereof, if any: *Provided*, That if the insured is in the military service when this Act ceases to be in force, such lapse shall occur and surrender value be payable at the expiration of one year after the date when this Act ceases to be in force.

Proviso.
If insured is in service when Act terminates.

Statement of account.

Credit to insurer.

Credit to United States.

SEC. 411. At the expiration of one year after the date when this Act ceases to be in force there shall be an account stated between each insurer and the United States, in which there shall be credited to the insurer the total amount of the certificates held as security under this article, together with accrued interest to the date of the account, and in which there shall be credited to the United States the amount of the cash surrender value of each policy lapsed or forfeited as provided in section 410, but not in any case a greater amount on any policy than the total of the unpaid premiums with interest thereon at the rate provided for in the policy for policy loans.

Balance to be paid upon surrender of certificates.

SEC. 412. The balance in favor of the insurer in each case shall be certified by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall pay to the insurer the amount thereof, which is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any moneys in

the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, upon the surrender by the insurer of the certificates delivered to it from time to time by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs under the provisions of this article.

Designated policies
not subject to benefits.

SEC. 413. This article shall not apply to any policy which is void or which may at the option of the insured be voidable, if the insured is in military service, either in this country or abroad, nor to any policy which as a result of being in military service, either in this country or abroad, provides for the payment of any sum less than the face thereof or for the payment of an additional amount as premium.

Companies within
application of article.

SEC. 414. This article shall apply only to insurance companies or associations which are required by the law under which they are organized or doing business to maintain a reserve, or, which if not so required, have made or shall make provision for the collection from all those insured in such insurer of a premium to cover the special war risk of those insured persons who are in military service.

ARTICLE V—TAXES AND PUBLIC LANDS

Real property of
persons in service.

SEC. 500. (1) The provisions of this section shall apply when any taxes or assessments, whether general or special, falling due during the period of military service in respect of real property owned and occupied for dwelling, agricultural, or business purposes by a person in military service or his dependents at the commencement of his period of military service and still so occupied by his dependents or employees are not paid.

Restriction on sale
for unpaid taxes.

(2) When any person in military service, or any person in his behalf, shall file with the collector of taxes, or other officer whose duty it is to enforce the collection of taxes or assessments, an affidavit showing (a) that a tax or assessment has been assessed upon property which is the subject of this section, (b) that such tax or assessment is unpaid, and (c) that by reason of such military service the ability of such person to pay such tax or assessment is materially affected, no sale of such property shall be made to enforce the collection of such tax or assessment, or any proceeding or action for such purpose commenced, except upon leave of court granted upon an application made therefor by such collector or other officer. The court thereupon may stay such proceedings or such sale, as provided in this Act, for a period extending not more than six months after the termination of the period of military service of such person.

Court action.

Redemption pro-
visions.

(3) When by law such property may be sold or forfeited to enforce the collection of such tax or assessment, such person in military service shall have the right to redeem or commence an action to redeem such property, at any time not later than six months after the termination of such service, but in no case later than six months after the date when this Act ceases to be in force; but this shall not be taken to shorten any period, now or hereafter provided by the laws of any State or Territory for such redemption.

Interest on unpaid
taxes.

(4) Whenever any tax or assessment shall not be paid when due, such tax or assessment due and unpaid shall bear interest until paid at the rate of 6 per centum per annum, and no other penalty or interest shall be incurred by reason of such nonpayment. Any lien for such unpaid taxes or assessment shall also include such interest thereon.

Notice of benefits
accorded.

(5) The Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall make provision in such manner as each may deem appropriate for his respective department, to insure the giving of notice to persons in the military service under their respective jurisdictions, of the benefits accorded by this section and the action made necessary to claim those benefits in each case.

SEC. 501. (1) No right to any lands owned or controlled by the United States initiated or acquired under any laws of the United States, including the mining and mineral leasing laws, by any person prior to entering military service shall during the period of such service be forfeited or prejudiced by reason of his absence from the land or his failure to perform any work or make any improvements thereon or his failure to do any other act required by or under such laws.

(2) If a permittee or licensee under the Act of June 28, 1934 (48 Stat. 1269), enters military service, he may elect to suspend his permit or license for the period of his military service and six months thereafter, and the Secretary of the Interior by regulations shall provide for such suspension of permits and licenses and for the remission, reduction, or refund of grazing fees during such suspension.

(3) This section shall not be construed to control specific requirements contained in this article.

SEC. 502. If any person whose application for a homestead entry has been allowed or who has made application for homestead entry which may thereafter be allowed, after such entry or application enters military service, or if any person who has a valid settlement claim enters military service, the Department of the Interior shall construe his military service to be equivalent to residence and cultivation upon the tract entered or settled upon for the period of such service. From the effective date of this Act no contest shall be initiated on the ground of abandonment and no allegation of abandonment shall be sustained against any such person, unless it shall be alleged in the preliminary affidavit or affidavits of contest and proved at the hearing in cases initiated subsequent to the effective date of this Act that the alleged absence from the land was not due to such military service. If such person is discharged on account of wounds received or disability incurred in the line of duty, the term of his enlistment and any period of hospitalization due to such wounds or disability shall be deducted from the required length of residence, without reference to the time of actual service. No patent shall issue to any such person who has not resided upon, improved, and cultivated his homestead for a period of at least one year.

SEC. 503. (1) If any person whose application for a homestead entry has been allowed or who has made application for homestead entry which may thereafter be allowed or who has a valid settlement claim dies while in military service or as a result of such service, his widow, if unmarried, or in the case of her death or marriage, his minor children, or his or their legal representatives, may proceed forthwith to make final proof upon such entry or upon an application which is allowed after the applicant's death, or upon a homestead application thereafter allowed based on a valid settlement claim, and shall be entitled to receive a patent for such land. The death of such person while in military service or as a result of such service shall be construed to be equivalent to a performance of all requirements as to residence and cultivation upon such homestead or claim, notwithstanding the provisions of section 502 of this Act.

(2) If such person is honorably discharged and because of physical incapacities due to such service is unable to return to the land, he may make final proof without further residence, improvement, or cultivation, at such time and place as the Secretary of the Interior may authorize, and receive a patent to the land entered.

(3) The Act of July 28, 1917 (40 Stat. 248), is hereby repealed.

SEC. 504. (1) No desert-land entry made or held under the desert-land laws prior to the entrance of the entryman or his successor in interest into military service shall be subject to contest or cancellation

Public lands.
Protection of rights
during period of serv-
ice.

43 U. S. C. ch. 8a;
Supp. V, ch. 8a.
Discretionary sus-
pension of permit; re-
fund of grazing fees.

Exemptions.

Service accepted for
homestead residence.

Credit allowed if
discharged for dis-
ability.

Residence before
issue of patent.

Death of applicant
for homestead while
in service, etc.

Rights of widow or
minor children.

Residence and cul-
tivation requirements.

Proof of entry if dis-
charged with service
disability.

Repeal.
43 U. S. C. §§ 241-
242, 272.
Desert-land entry.
Expenditure and
reclamation require-
ments.

for failure to make or expend the sum of \$1 per acre per year in improvements upon the claim or to effect the reclamation of the claim during the period the entryman or his successor in interest is engaged in military service or during a period of six months thereafter or during any period of hospitalization because of wounds or disability incurred in the line of duty. The time within which such entryman or claimant is required to make such expenditures and effect reclamation of the land shall be exclusive of his period of service and the six-months' period and any such period of hospitalization.

Proof of entry if discharged with service disability.

(2) If such entryman or claimant is honorably discharged and because of physical incapacities due to such service is unable to accomplish reclamation of, and payment for, the land, he may make proof without further reclamation or payments under such rules as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe and receive patent for the land entered or claimed.

Entryman required to file notice of entry into military service.

(3) In order to obtain the benefits of this section, such entryman or claimant shall, within six months after the effective date of this Act or within six months after his entrance into military service, file or cause to be filed in the land office of the district in which his claim is situated a notice that he has entered military service and that he desires to hold the desert claim under this section.

39 U. S. C. § 28. Mining labor regulations.

SEC. 505. (1) The provisions of section 2324 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, which require that on each mining claim located after May 10, 1872, and until patent has been issued therefor not less than \$100 worth of labor shall be performed or improvements made during each year, shall not apply during the period of his service, or until six months after the termination of such service, or during any period of hospitalization because of wounds or disability incurred in line of duty, to claims or interests in claims which are owned by a person in military service and which have been regularly located and recorded. No mining claim or any interest in a claim which is owned by such a person and which has been regularly located and recorded shall be subject to forfeiture by nonperformance of the annual assessments during the period of such military service, or until six months after the termination of such service or of such hospitalization.

No forfeiture by nonperformance of annual assessments.

Obtainment of benefits, requirements.

(2) In order to obtain the benefits of this section, the claimant of any mining location shall, before the expiration of the assessment year during which he enters military service, file or cause to be filed in the office where the location notice or certificate is recorded a notice that he has entered such service and that he desires to hold his mining claim under this section.

Permit or lease under Federal mineral leasing laws. Suspension of operations.

SEC. 506. (1) Any person holding a permit or lease on the public domain under the Federal mineral leasing laws who enters military service may, at his election, suspend all operations under his permit or lease for a period of time equivalent to the period of his military service and six months thereafter. The term of the permit or lease shall not run during such period of suspension nor shall any rentals or royalties be charged against the permit or lease during the period of suspension.

Obtainment of benefits, requirements.

(2) In order to obtain the benefit of this section, such permittee or lessee shall, within six months after the effective date of this Act or six months after his entrance into military service, notify the General Land Office by registered mail of his entrance into such service and of his desire to avail himself of the benefits of this section.

Construing of section.

(3) This section shall not be construed to supersede the terms of any contract for operation of a permit or lease.

Perfection, etc., of rights while in service.

SEC. 507. Nothing in this article shall be construed to limit or affect the right of a person in military service to take any action during his period of service which may be authorized by law or the

regulations of the Department of the Interior for the perfection, defense, or further assertion of rights initiated or acquired prior to the date of entering military service. It shall be lawful for any person while in such service to make any affidavit or submit any proof which may be required by law or the practice or regulations of the General Land Office in connection with the entry, perfection, defense, or further assertion of any rights initiated or acquired prior to entering such service, before the officer in immediate command and holding a commission in the branch of the service in which the person is engaged. Such affidavits shall be as binding in law and with like penalties as if taken before a register of a United States land office. The Secretary of the Interior may issue rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of sections 501 to 512, inclusive.

SEC. 508. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to suspend as to persons in military service during the period while this Act remains in force and for a period of six months thereafter or during any period of hospitalization because of wounds or disability incurred in line of duty that provision of the act known as the "Reclamation Act" requiring residence upon lands in private ownership or within the neighborhood for securing water for the irrigation of the same, and he is authorized to permit the use of available water thereon upon such terms and conditions as he may deem proper.

SEC. 509. The Secretary of the Interior shall issue through appropriate military and naval channels a notice for distribution by appropriate military and naval authorities to persons in the military service explaining the provisions of this article except as to section 500 hereof and shall furnish forms to be distributed in like manner to those desiring to make application for its benefits, except as to said section.

SEC. 510. (1) During the pendency of any war in which the United States may be engaged while this Act remains in force any homestead entryman shall be entitled to a leave of absence from his entry for the purpose of performing farm labor. The time actually spent in farm labor shall be counted as constructive residence, if within fifteen days after leaving his entry to engage in such labor the entryman files a notice of absence in the land office of the district in which his entry is situated, and if at the expiration of the calendar year the entryman files in that office a written statement under oath and corroborated by two witnesses giving the date or dates when he left his entry, the date or dates of his return, and the place where and person for whom he was engaged in farm labor during such period or periods of absence.

(2) Nothing in this section shall excuse any homestead entryman from making improvements or performing the cultivation upon his entry required by law. The provisions of this section shall apply only to persons whose applications have been allowed or filed prior to the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 511. Any person under the age of twenty-one who serves in the military service while this Act remains in force shall be entitled to the same rights under the laws relating to lands owned or controlled by the United States, including the mining and mineral leasing laws, as those over twenty-one now possess under such laws. Any requirements as to establishment of residence within a limited time shall be suspended as to entry by such person until six months after his discharge from military service. Applications for entry may be verified before any officer in the United States or any foreign country authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the State or Territory in which the land may be situated.

Rules and regulations.

Residence requirements, lands in private ownership, etc.

Use of available water.

Explanatory notice to be distributed.

Application forms.

Performance of farm labor.
Leaves of absence to entrymen during pendency of war.

No excuse allowed for nonperformance.

Public lands.
Equal rights accorded persons under age of 21.

U. S. citizens serving with allied forces.

SEC. 512. Citizens of the United States who serve with the forces of any nation with which the United States may be allied in the prosecution of any war in which the United States engages while this Act remains in force shall be entitled to the relief and benefits afforded by this article, if such service is similar to military service as defined in this Act, and if they are honorably discharged and resume United States citizenship or die in the service of the allied forces or as a result of such service.

Tax collection from person in military service.

SEC. 513. The collection from any person in the military service of any tax on the income of such person, whether falling due prior to or during his period of military service, shall be deferred for a period extending not more than six months after the termination of his period of military service if such person's ability to pay such tax is materially impaired by reason of such service. No interest on any amount of tax, collection of which is deferred for any period under this section, and no penalty for nonpayment of such amount during such period, shall accrue for such period of deferment by reason of such nonpayment. The running of any statute of limitations against the collection of such tax by distraint or otherwise shall be suspended for the period of military service of any individual the collection of whose tax is deferred under this section, and for an additional period of nine months beginning with the day following the period of military service. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the income tax on employees imposed by section 1400 of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act.

53 Stat. 175, 1381.
26 U. S. C., Supp.
V, §§ 1400, 1432.

ARTICLE VI—ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Evasive transfers of interests.

SEC. 600. Where in any proceeding to enforce a civil right in any court it is made to appear to the satisfaction of the court that any interest, property, or contract has since the date of the approval of this Act been transferred or acquired with intent to delay the just enforcement of such right by taking advantage of this Act, the court shall enter such judgment or make such order as might lawfully be entered or made, the provisions of this Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Certificates as to service.

SEC. 601. (1) In any proceeding under this Act a certificate signed by The Adjutant General of the Army as to persons in the Army or in any branch of the United States service while serving pursuant to law with the Army of the United States, signed by the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation of the Navy Department as to persons in the United States Navy or in any other branch of the United States service while serving pursuant to law with the United States Navy, and signed by the Major General Commandant, United States Marine Corps, as to persons in the Marine Corps, or in any other branch of the United States service while serving pursuant to law with the Marine Corps, or signed by an officer designated by any of them, respectively, for the purpose, shall when produced be prima facie evidence as to any of the following facts stated in such certificate:

Prima facie evidence of specified facts.

That a person named has not been, or is, or has been in military service; the time when and the place where such person entered military service, his residence at that time, and the rank, branch, and unit of such service that he entered, the dates within which he was in military service, the monthly pay received by such person at the date of issuing the certificate, the time when and the place where such person died in or was discharged from such service.

Certificates furnished on application.

(2) It shall be the duty of the foregoing officers to furnish such certificate on application, and any such certificate when purporting to be signed by any one of such officers or by any person purporting

upon the face of the certificates to have been so authorized shall be prima facie evidence of its contents and of the authority of the signer to issue the same.

(3) Where a person in military service has been reported missing he shall be presumed to continue in the service until accounted for, and no period herein limited which begins or ends with the death of such person shall begin or end until the death of such person is in fact reported to or found by the Department of War or Navy, or any court or board thereof, or until such death is found by a court of competent jurisdiction: *Provided*, That no period herein limited which begins or ends with the death of such person shall be extended hereby beyond a period of six months after the time when this Act ceases to be in force.

Presumption as to persons reported missing.

Proviso.
Limitation.

SEC. 602. Any interlocutory order made by any court under the provisions of this Act may, upon the court's own motion or otherwise, be revoked, modified, or extended by it upon such notice to the parties affected as it may require.

Court action.

SEC. 603. If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, the remainder of the Act, and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

Saving clause.

SEC. 604. This Act shall remain in force until May 15, 1945: *Provided*, That should the United States be then engaged in a war, this Act shall remain in force until such war is terminated by a treaty of peace proclaimed by the President and for six months thereafter: *Provided further*, That wherever under any section or provision of this Act a proceeding, remedy, privilege, stay, limitation, accounting, or other transaction has been authorized or provided with respect to military service performed prior to the date herein fixed for the termination of this Act, such section or provision shall be deemed to continue in full force and effect so long as may be necessary to the exercise or enjoyment of such proceeding, remedy, privilege, stay, limitation, accounting, or other transaction.

Duration.
Provisos.
Extension.

Continuance of authorized transactions.

SEC. 605. The provisions of section 4 of the joint resolution approved August 27, 1940 (Public Resolution Numbered 96, Seventy-sixth Congress), and the provisions of section 13 of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, shall not be applicable with respect to any military service performed after the date of enactment of this Act.

Inapplicability of certain provisions.
Ante, pp. 880, 895.

Approved, October 17, 1940.

[CHAPTER 889]

AN ACT

To authorize the lease or sale of certain public lands in Alaska, and for other purposes.

October 17, 1940
[H. R. 6658]
[Public, No. 562]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sections numbered 16 and 36 in townships 17 and 18 north, ranges 1 and 2 east, Seward meridian, Alaska, are hereby released from the reservation thereof made by the Act of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1214), for the support of the common schools in the Territory of Alaska, and in lieu of the lands so released an equal area of vacant, nonmineral, surveyed, unreserved, public lands in the Territory of Alaska may be designated and reserved for the support of the common schools in the Territory of Alaska in the manner provided by the Act of February 28, 1891 (26 Stat. 796).

Alaska.
Exchange of certain public lands.

48 U. S. C. § 353.

43 U. S. C. § 551.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to lease, or to sell at not less than \$1.25 per acre, under such rules and regulations and upon such terms and conditions as he may

Lease or sale of lands released from reservation.